

# **The Power of the Deafblind Technical Assistance Network: What's in it For You?**

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# Learning Outcomes

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Through hearing a family's story as well as reflections from additional presenters, participants will...

- Increase understanding of how collaborative partnerships between state organizations create positive outcomes and engagement for families.
- Increase awareness of the deafblind technical assistance network and the resources and support available to them.

# Introductions

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- Lissa Elkins, Parent of Leo, National Family Association for Deafblind Board Member
- Danna Conn, TN Deafblind Project
- Holli Allen, TN EHDI
- Emma Fricke, National Center on Deafblindness

# State Examples - Tennessee

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*Supporting families through collaborative  
partnerships*

Lissa Elkins, Danna Conn, Holli Allen

# Reflecting on Collaboration

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- Benefits of Partnership between TN EHCI and the State Deafblind Project



# About State Deafblind Projects

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- Federal grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- Free services to families, educators, and other professionals of individuals from birth - 21
  - Consultations at school, home, or community
  - Resources, support and information
  - Instructional strategies
  - Workshops, trainings, conferences
  - Networking opportunities
  - Child Find
  - Guidance through transitions
- [Contact your state deafblind project](#)

# Deafblind Technical Assistance Network

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- Serve Birth - Age 21
- National Center on Deafblindness (NCDB)
- State and Multi-State Deafblind Projects



# Overview of Deafblindness

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- Deafblindness refers to combined vision and hearing loss.
- Any range of combined vision and hearing loss that significantly limits the child's ability to get information from people, objects, and activities around them.
- Losses can cause developmental delays: language/communication, social emotional skills, cognition, adaptive, and motor.



# National Deaf-Blind Child Count

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- Authorized by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- Each state conducts a count of children and youth who are deaf-blind (birth through age 21).
- State data is compiled and reported in the annual *National Child Count of Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind.*
- 87% of children on the deaf-blind child count have one or more disabilities - in addition to deaf-blindness

2019 National DB Child Count, NCDB

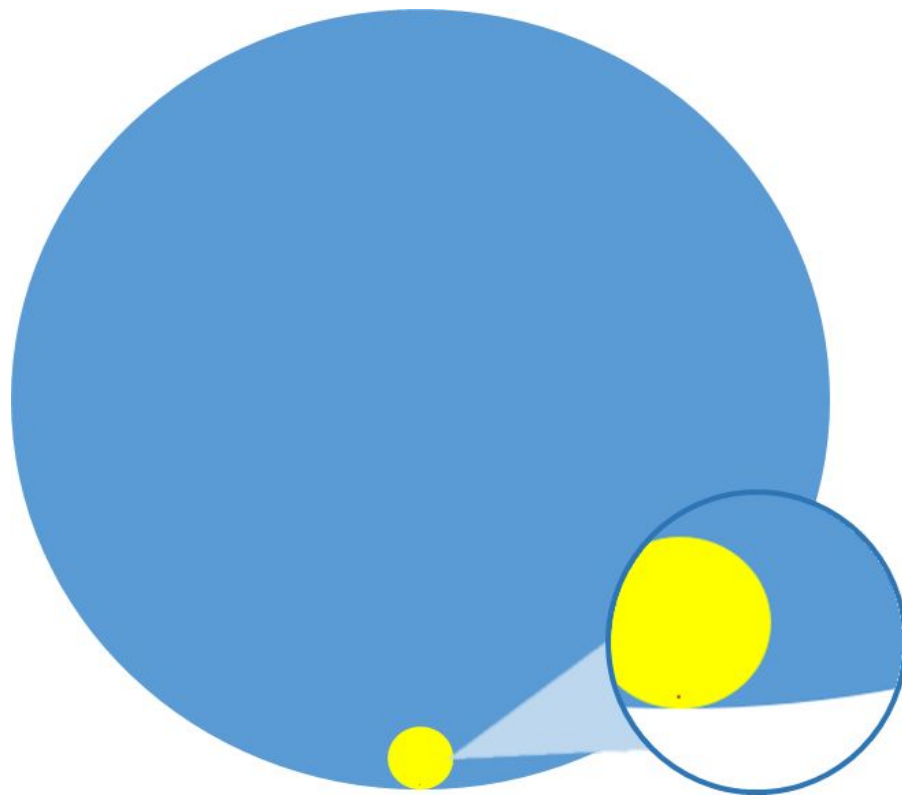
\*\*State deafblind projects are unique to state differences in regulations and legislation, which means that each state collects their child count data in a way to meet these specific needs. The National Center on Deafblindness' child count reports are general in nature with limitations related to completeness and accuracy.

# Low Incidence Population

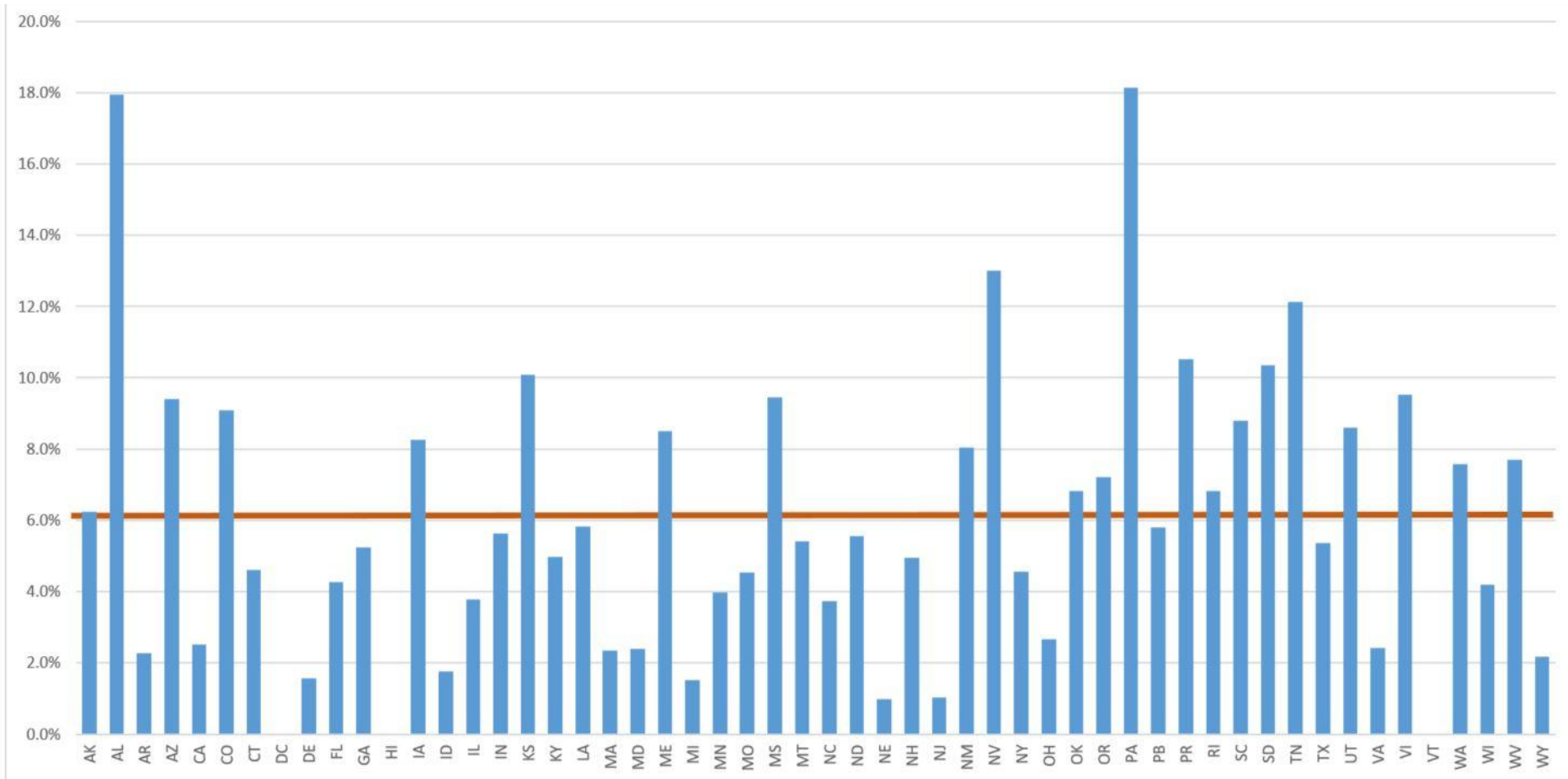
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## Children Birth - 21

- Blue circle: All children in the U.S. (~90 mil\*)
- Yellow circle: Children in special education (~7.3 million\*\*) 8% of U.S.
- Red circle: Children with deaf-blindness (10,585<sup>^</sup>)  
**.14%** of special education



# National DB Count: Percent Birth to 2



# National DB Child Count: Birth - 6

Age	N	% DB Total
Under 1	63	0.5%
1	206	1.9%
2	279	2.6%
3	352	3.3%
4	363	3.4%
5	494	4.7%
6	523	4.9%

# Tips for ID & Referral

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- Children identified as D/hh should be evaluated for a loss in vision
- Evaluations should be repeated regularly
- Early identification requires partnership & collaboration
- Once a child is identified, training in deafblindness can:
  - Help young children learn how to access residual vision and hearing
  - Learn skills to support the child's learning, communication & language development, social emotional development, motor development and increase independence

# Resources

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- [For Families Webpage on National Center on Deafblindness](#)
- [Services and Organizations for Families](#)
- [Causes of Deafblindness](#)
- [Deafblind Etiology Code List](#)
- [Module 2: Early Intervention for Children Who Are Deafblind](#)



# 3...2...1

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**THREE** things you **LEARNED**

**TWO** questions you leave with

**ONE** thing you will **SHARE WITH** a team member

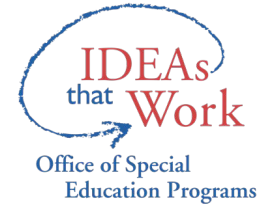


**Questions?**





# National Center on Deafblindness



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